



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

July 7, 2006

Ms. Marsi Steirer
Deputy Director, Water Policy and Strategic Planning
City of San Diego Water Department
600 B Street, Suite 700, MS 907
San Diego, California 92101-4506

Dear Ms. Steirer:

During the 2006, the San Diego Science and Technology Commission had the opportunity to review the City of San Diego's Water Reuse Study. This Study which was requested by the San Diego City Council researched options to increase the use of recycled water within the boundaries of the City of San Diego. In June of this year the final report of this study will be provided to the City Council for input and policy direction.

This Commission understands that the Study has evaluated several options to maximize the use of recycled water produced by the City's two water reclamation plants. One option is the familiar use of recycled water for landscape irrigation, construction, and industrial processing. This first option would require the extension of the current tertiary treatment options and would expand the use of the "purple pipe" for distribution of recycled water. A second option involves using advanced water treatment technology to produce highly treated recycled water. This technology allows recycled water to be added to groundwater storage basins and water storage reservoirs so that it can help supplement other sources of drinking water.

This Commission recommends that Council consider both policy options, evaluate the cost and efficiency of each, and move forward with a policy selection. The Council should also initiate the education of the general public on the safety and benefits of increasing recycled water usage. Increasing the production and use of recycled water in the City will:

- Decrease and offset the amount of water that must be imported into the City from hundreds of miles away and decrease the amount of treated wastewater that must be discharged into the ocean
- Help meet increasing water use projections attributed to population increase projections; these projections predict that by 2030 City water usage could increase by 25 percent over today's usage.
- Avoid drought restrictions on outdoor watering which is dependent on imported water.
- Provide a local source of water.

The Science and Technology Commission is supportive of the Water Department's Water Reuse Study in its efforts to analyze and evaluate options to increase the production and use of recycled water in our community.

Sincerely,

Martha Dennis Ph.D.
Chair, City of San Diego Science and Technology Commission



The City Planning and Community Investment
600 B Street, 4th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
For more information contact: Toni Dillon 619.533.7279